

women and girls into sex trafficking. Interviews with gang members indicate that the gang members regard working as an individual who solicits customers for a prostitute (commonly known as a “pimp”) to being as lucrative as trafficking in drugs, but with a much lower chance of being criminally convicted.

(4) Minors in the United States are highly vulnerable for sexual exploitation and sex trafficking. As many as 2,800,000 children live on the streets. Of the estimated 1,600,000 children who run away each year, 77 percent return home within 1 week. However, 33 percent of children who run away are lured into prostitution within 48 hours of leaving home.

(5) National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway and Throwaway Children, the definitive study of episodes of missing children, found that of the children who are victims of non-family abduction, runaway or throwaway children, the police are alerted by family or guardians in only 21 percent of the cases. In 79 percent of cases there is no report and no police involvement, and therefore no official attempt to find the child.

(6) In 2007, the Administration of Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, reported to the Federal Government 265,000 cases of serious physical, sexual, or psychological abuse of children.

(7) Experts estimate that over 100,000 children in the United States are at risk for prostitution.

(8) Children who have run away from home are at a high risk of becoming involved in sex trafficking. Children who have run away multiple times are at much higher risk of not returning home and of engaging in prostitution.

(9) The vast majority of children involved in sex trafficking have suffered previous sexual or physical abuse, live in poverty, or have no stable home or family life. These children require a comprehensive framework of specialized treatment and mental health counseling that addresses post-traumatic stress, depression, and sexual exploitation.

(10) The average age of entry into prostitution is 12. Seventy-five percent of minors engaged in prostitution have a pimp. A pimp can earn \$200,000 per year prostituting 1 trafficking victim.

(11) Sex trafficking is a complex and varied criminal problem that requires a multi-disciplinary, cooperative solution. Reducing trafficking will require the government to address victims, pimps, and johns; and to provide training specific to sex trafficking for law enforcement officers and prosecutors, and child welfare, public health, and other social service providers. A good model for this type of approach is the Internet Crimes Against Children task force program.

(12) Human trafficking is a criminal enterprise that imposes significant costs on the economy of the United States. Government and non-profit resources used to address trafficking include those of law enforcement, the judicial and penal systems, and social service providers. Without a range of appropriate treatments to help trafficking victims overcome the trauma they have experienced, victims will continue to be involved in crime, unable to support themselves, and continue to require government resources rather than being productive contributors to the legitimate economy.

(13) Many domestic minor sex trafficking victims are younger than 18 years old and are below the age of consent. Because trafficking victims have been forced to engage in prostitution rather than willfully to committing a crime, these victims should not be charged as criminal defendants. Instead, these victims of trafficking should have access to treatment and services to help them

escape and overcome being sexually exploited, and should also be allowed to seek appropriate remuneration from crime victims' compensation funds.

(14) The State of New York has adopted a safe harbor law that establishes a presumption a minor charged with a prostitution offense is a severely trafficked person. This law allows the child to avoid criminal charges of prostitution and instead be considered a “person in need of supervision.” The statute also provides support and services to sexually exploited youth who are under the age of 18 years old. These services include safe houses, crisis intervention programs, community-based programs, and law-enforcement training to help officers identify sexually exploited youth.

(15) Sex trafficking is not a problem that occurs only in urban settings. This crime exists also in rural areas and on Indian reservations. Efforts to address sex trafficking should include partnerships with organizations that seek to address the needs of such under-served communities.

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF THE SENATE.

It is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Attorney General should implement changes to the National Crime Information Center database in order to ensure that—

(A) a child entered into the database will be automatically designated as an endangered juvenile if the child has been reported missing not less than 3 times in a 1 year period;

(B) the database be programmed to cross-reference newly entered reports with historical records already in the database; and

(C) the database be programmed to include a visual cue on the record of a child designated as an endangered juvenile in order to assist law enforcement officers in recognizing the child and providing the child with appropriate care and services; and

(2) funds awarded under subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3750 et seq.) (commonly known as Byrne Grants) should be used to provide programs relating to sex trafficking education, training, deterrence, and prevention.

#### SEC. 4. SEX TRAFFICKING BLOCK GRANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term “Assistant Attorney General” means the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice;

(2) the term “domestic minor” means an individual who is—

(A) a citizen of the United States or a lawful permanent resident of the United States; and

(B) under the age of 18 years old; and

(3) the term “eligible entity” means a State or unit of local government that—

(A) has significant sex trafficking activity;

(B) has demonstrated cooperation between State and local law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, and social service providers in addressing sex trafficking; and

(C) has developed a workable, multi-disciplinary plan to combat sex trafficking, including—

(i) the establishment of a shelter for sex trafficking victims;

(ii) the provision of comprehensive services to domestic minor victims;

(iii) the provision of specialized training for law enforcement officers and social service providers; and

(iv) deterrence and prosecution of sex trafficking offenses.

(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Attorney General is authorized to award 6 block grants to eligible entities in different regions of the United States to combat sex

trafficking, and not less than 1 of the block grants shall be awarded to an eligible entity with a State population of less than 5,000,000.

(2) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this section shall be in the amount of \$2,500,000.

(3) DURATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period of 1 year.

(B) RENEWAL.—The Secretary may renew a grant under this section for 2 1-year periods.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) ALLOCATION.—For each grant awarded under subsection (b)—

(A) not less than 25 percent of the funds shall be used to provide shelter and services to victims of sex trafficking; and

(B) not less than 10 percent of the funds shall be awarded by the eligible entity to a subcontractor with annual revenues of less than \$750,000, to provide services to victims of sex trafficking or training for law enforcement and social service providers.

(2) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Grants awarded pursuant to subsection (b) may be used for activities such as—

(A) providing shelter to domestic minor trafficking victims, including temporary or long-term placement as appropriate;

(B) providing trafficking victims with clothing and other daily necessities needed to keep the trafficking victims from returning to living on the street;

(C) counseling and legal services for victims of sex trafficking, including substance abuse treatment, trauma-informed care, and sexual abuse or other mental health counseling;

(D) specialized training for law enforcement personnel and social service providers, specific to sex trafficking issues;

(E) funding salaries, in whole or in part, for law enforcement officers, including patrol officers; detectives; and investigators; provided that the percentage of the salary of the law enforcement officer paid for by funds from a grant awarded under subsection (b) shall be no less than the percentage of the time dedicated to working on sex trafficking cases by the law enforcement officer;

(F) funding salaries for State and local prosecutors, including assisting in paying trial expenses for prosecution of sex trafficking law offenders;

(G) investigation expenses, including—

(i) wire taps;

(ii) consultants with expertise specific to sex trafficking cases;

(iii) travel; and

(iv) any other technical assistance expenditures; and

(H) outreach and education programs to provide information about deterrence and prevention of sex trafficking, including programs to provide treatment to men charged with solicitation of prostitution in cases where—

(i) a treatment program is an appropriate alternative to criminal prosecution; and

(ii) the men were not charged with solicitation of sex with a minor.

(d) APPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this Act shall submit an application to the Assistant Attorney General at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Assistant Attorney General may reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

(A) describe the activities for which assistance under this section is sought; and

(B) provide such additional assurances as the Secretary determines to be essential to ensure compliance with the requirements of this Act.